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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 JERUSALEM 000611

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAL](#) [KWBG](#) [KPAO](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (04/03): PALESTINIANS SEE NEED
FOR CLEAR POLICY TO COUNTER NETANYAHU GOVERNMENT

Main Stories:

Al-Quds and Al-Hayat Al-Jadida lead with news of "confiscations by settlers." According to reports a building housing five Palestinian

families, "was confiscated by settlers under Israeli police protection," in the Old City of Jerusalem on April 2. The paper also runs a prominent cartoon on its back page showing the Damascus gate of the Jerusalem Old City, renamed "Arab Jerusalem," about to be demolished by a huge Israeli bulldozer. In separate reporting the paper adds that 100 acres were confiscated in a Palestinian village near Nablus to allow for the construction of a settlement road. Related coverage on Al Ayyam's front page cites AFP in reporting on four Hebron shopping centers being, "confiscated by settlers."

Al- Ayyam leads with news that Palestinian national dialogue in Cairo is again on hold. According to reports that also appear on the front pages of Al-Quds and Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, the talks will recess for three weeks so that delegations can confer with their leadership. The papers also report that Egyptian Intelligence Chief Sulayman briefed Palestinian delegations on his recent visit to the United States and conveyed U.S. policy regarding unity talks, specifically U.S. and EU commitment to Middle East Quartet conditions.

Al-Ayyam front pages a photo of President Obama shaking hands with Saudi King Abdullah at the G20 summit in London on April 2. According to the report that appears on all front pages Obama and Abdullah discussed bilateral relations and how to advance the Middle East peace process based on the Arab Peace Initiative. The report adds that Special Envoy Mitchell will visit the region soon and that the U.S. is "pushing hard" for acceptance of the two-state solution.

All front pages also run separate summary coverage of the G20 summit, with excerpts from several leaders' remarks including

President Obama who highlights that the summit was productive and resulted in coordinated efforts.

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida's front page cites wire reports about Israeli Foreign Minister Lieberman's 8-hour questioning by Israeli police on suspicions of corruption and money laundering. According to Lieberman, who has denied all accusations, the investigation is meant to tarnish his reputation.

All front pages report on the April 2 attack by a Palestinian in the Israeli settlement of Bat Ayin near Bethlehem. Reporting is neutral in tone, describing the attack, including the ages of the young victims. It focuses on the repercussions of the attack on surrounding Palestinian communities, noting that Israel imposed a curfew on neighboring villages and is searching for the attacker who fled after the attack. Al Ayyam front pages a photo of a hand-cuffed youth, arrested in the attacker's home village of Beit Saffa.

In economic news, Al-Quds and Al-Ayyam report on inside pages about the visit of a U.S. Consulate General, Jerusalem delegation to Nablus where they met with Nablus Businessmen Forum members on April 1. According to the report, the meeting comes within the framework of Consulate support for the Palestinian economy and private sector. In other coverage of Consulate activities, an Al-Quds' inside page reports that U.S. Consulate General staff donated more than 800 books to the RISOL Community center in Nablus on April 2.

BLOCK QUOTES:

1) Majid Kayyali opines in Al-Quds independent daily under the

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title, "The real questions Palestinians should be asking"(04/03): "Palestinian factions did well to engage in unity talks to resolve the Palestinian [internal division] crisis... which benefitted no one but Israel...[however] it's still obvious that the Palestinian Authority and opposition parties intentionally try to avoid the real issues... more specifically, they should be pondering questions like what's the future of negotiations? What is the future of the two-state solution?... What do the factions in Gaza want? Do they want it to become a base for launching rockets, or do they want to liberated it and transform it into a model [of good governance]? Questions like these cannot be answered with vague policies, the leaders should be smarter than that... Another strategic question to be asked regards armed resistance toward Israel. The leaders should ask themselves if this policy is useful... will it free Palestine or even the West Bank."

2) Samih Shibib opines in Al-Ayyam independent daily under the title, "Netanyahu's agenda and Lieberman's statements"(04/03): "Israeli rejection of [Annapolis] is perceived as an insult to U.S. diplomatic efforts... As we await the U.S. response, there needs to

is a Palestinian response... regarding negotiations with the Netanyahu government, whose platform clearly refuses the two-state solution, a move that will surely empower Palestinian extremist parties and weaken moderates. A clear policy should be developed to either pursue or stop negotiations and thereby exploit Netanyahu's agenda and Lieberman's statements in a way that results in the isolation of Israel and condemnation of its policies that are against negotiations and peace in general."

WALLES